



Ask Your United States Research Question

5 July 2016

FamilySearch
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QUESTION 1:

Louisa Gould, born about 1835, perhaps in Ohio, lived in Clayton County, Iowa in 1850, in the household of Hiram H. Singer. He married Martha J. Gould, age 16, in Clayton County, Iowa Territory in 1841. His land and Jeremiah Gould's land shared a common border. Singer and Gould arrived in Clayton County about the same time in 1840. Who were Louisa Gould's parents?

- Check probate records for Jeremiah Gould and Hiram Singer where they died or owned property
- Check possible guardianship records depending on when she entered the household
- Could Martha and Louisa be sisters or otherwise related?
- Follow Martha's marriage, census, and death
- Check county history books for the counties they resided in
- Find county marriage records for both Martha and Louisa, they may list parents, also check for a church marriage for both, also look at witnesses for both marriages
- Land and probate records for both Gould and Singer families
- Church records in the community, possibly, baptisms, marriages. May be available at historical societies, university libraries, or other libraries may have them
- 1925 Iowa State census has parents listed if either of them lived that long
- Newspaper accounts of deaths such as obituaries may be names of parents or may give other surviving siblings which will give you other names to look for. Contact a local public library to see if they have obituary indexes to the newspapers
- Check historical county boundaries and timelines at the Atlas of Historical County boundaries
- Ohio 1830 federal census to see what Goulds are living there and who has a female child around the age of 5 years old

- Births or baptisms for Louisa and Martha in Ohio
- What state was Martha born in? Census records should give that information.
- Also check the FamilySearch Wiki for ideas or suggestions for various records.

QUESTION 2:

Ella Elizabeth Bingham (or Bingaman person's death certificate) born 1849 Indiana/died 1933 Indiana married John Samuel Barton Sr when & where? Also, cannot find her parents? Oh yes, John Samuel Barton born 1839 Indiana & died 1923 Indiana.

- Death certificate for Ella who died in 1933 (may list name of father)
- Marriage record for Ella to John Barton may have additional information. Contact historical societies or genealogical societies who can help you get copies of marriage records or county clerk.
- Anything about Ella's siblings could provide clues to parents or other siblings
- Are there any land records for John Barton? They may have to record their marriage date in court records for inheritance reasons.
- Check court minute books and deeds.
- Ella's father is Fredrick Bingham and John's father is Joshua. If you know when they show up on a census with the age of the firstborn child, find the county are they living in when they first appear as a husband and wife. Look for marriages in that county. If you don't find a marriage there, start searching surrounding counties.
- Did John Barton Sr serve in the civil war? If he applies for a pension there may be additional information about the family or if his wife applied for a widow's pension.
- Tax records to see who lived around the family
- Newspapers from Chronicling America could help
- Obituaries may mention if there is any type of military service.
- Check for multiple newspapers for obituaries
- County history books

- Descendancy research. Children may have a marriage or death record that indicates where their parents were born
- The Hidden Half of the Family has overviews/timelines of when laws change
- Probate records for the area where they are living. See if there are probates for any older Bingham or Barton families in the area. Also land records for both surnames.
- Church records of marriage and baptisms to see if the family attended any church
- Check funeral records at the church to see if they have further information
- City directories may give clues or farm directories if it's a rural area
- Funeral homes may give additional information about the family
- No 1870/1880 census but by 1900 they are divorced. Do you know the county they divorced in? The courthouse will have divorce proceedings and papers that will tell where the couple married and when they married. The counties may be open to letting you look at divorce records. May have witnesses. Court records may or may not be on site. You may have to order them before you go there.
- Always check different spellings. Indexes may not be correct.

QUESTION 3:

Maiden name of Sarah Jane BELL and parents. Married to John Montgomery BELL about 1840 in PA. Some family trees think her maiden name is EMPFIELD because there was an elderly (maybe father) living with her and John and the children in 1850 (Jacob Empfield, laborer, was 50, Sarah was 32). The oldest "child" is 17 (Phoebe Bell—who is really John's youngest sister) with next "child" 10 years old – husband John is 29). Marriage certificates for the children that I can find says their Mother's name was Sarah Jane CLINGER (or KLINGER). However, cannot find any reference to her anywhere else. No marriage record found for John & Sarah.

- Church records: marriage records and baptism records
- Were they Quakers?
- Pennsylvania Deaths start in 1893 in the county (do not list names of parents)
- State of Pennsylvania started keeping deaths in 1906
- Look at Jacob Empfield more closely to see if you can find him in census records moving forward. Find out when he died.

- Probate records in Indiana and Westmoreland Counties Pennsylvania for Jacob Empfield and for Bell and Clinger/Klinger
- John may have served in the Civil War could find service records, pension records, widow's pension
- Findagrave for Jacob Empfield
- Rootsweb Cemetery transcriptions from USGenweb
- Also check with historical or genealogical societies. They may have early newspapers
- Newspapers obituaries
- Land and property records to see if there are any deeds that connect the Bells, the Empfields, and Clinger/Klinger. Are there land ownership maps for the area?
- Tax records
- Census records are there other Empfields Bells or Clinger/Klingers?
Pennsylvania death records 1906-1963 at Ancestry.com. Look for each of their children's death records to see what they say their mother's surname is.
- Church records of marriage
- Guardianship records for the county she lived in. May or may not be available online. You may have to check with the courthouse. Orphan's court handled probate and guardianship in Pennsylvania
- Legal notices in the newspapers that will point to guardianship records
- Online newspapers to search would be worth your time.
- Visit some of the areas that may have Empfield's living there. Contact them to see if anyone knows anything about the history of the surname. Descendancy research
- Topical maps
- Search Persi for periodicals in the area and by surname. This is available at Findmypast.com at the library and family history centers.
- The Pennsylvania page at the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

QUESTION 4:

Susan (NH - 1): and/or BEISSWANGER/FETZER marriage – Martin BEISSWANGER traveled with from Germany to NY in Feb 1884 with Catherine FETZER, her son and her brother. No evidence of marriage in Germany and Catherine used maiden name for voyage to US. So, assumption is they were married in US but cannot find a marriage record. 1884 arrived NYC. 1892 in NY state census as Martin & Katie BEISSWANGER with 4 children (1 born in Germany & 3 in US) in Elmira, Chemung, NY. 1900 US census shows in Caton, Steuben, NY and has them married 18 years (so 1882 – prior to voyage) and 10 children – 9 still living. But German record shows first son born in Germany as an illegitimate child of Catherine on March 3, 1883. German specialist thinks were married in US. Religion in Germany: Lutheran

- New York City marriage records index at Italian Gen through stevemorse.org and births for children
- Lutheran church records of marriage and baptisms
- Port of departure if it is Hamburg Ancestry.com has them indexed. They do give last residence for the individual on the passenger list
- If they traveled up to Elmira see if there are town records for Elmira. County marriage records don't start until 1908.
- City directories may give clue to marriage date
- Death certificate for Catherine in Elmira. You could check Lutheran cemeteries to see when she died if you don't know when.
- Any Fetzer's in the parish records in Germany where the first child was born?
- Ortsfamilienbucher at genealogy.net
- Fulton County Postcards website old_fulton_NY_Post_Cards excellent newspaper search